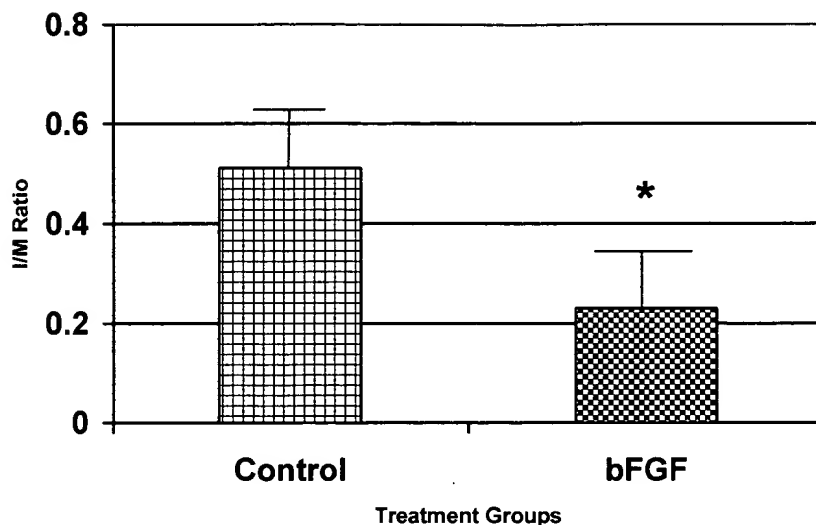


19, 2005. I have been told and understand that the claims of the '610 application have been rejected for lack of enablement.

3. The claimed subject matter is directed to a method of introducing protein in a mammal. As set forth in the claims and as taught in the specification, that method is accomplished by delivering transformed vascular cells to a blood vessel of the mammal, wherein the transformed cells originate from the mammal, or are syngeneic to the mammal. The transformed cells further contain an exogenous nucleic acid that encodes the desired protein and are competent to express that protein when delivered to a mammalian blood vessel in accordance with the claimed invention. See, e.g., Claim 106.
4. It is my understanding that the Office action asserts that the '610 application, while establishing that instillation of cells transformed with a marker gene into a blood vessel leads to expression of the marker gene in that blood vessel, nevertheless fails to enable the claimed invention. In particular, although the Office action acknowledges that "the specification does in fact disclose a number of putative therapeutic proteins that could be used in applicant's methods," the Office action also maintains that the enablement requirement is not satisfied because "no data regarding the actual activity of these putative therapeutic proteins when expressed *in vivo* according to the instant methods has been presented." (Office Action, mailed May 19, 2005, page 5, bottom paragraph).

5. Following the teaching and guidance of the '610 application, and under my direction, the work described below demonstrates the transformation of vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs) from a pig with an adenovirus vector encoding the basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) protein. Those transformed cells were instilled into a balloon-injured artery of the same pig and expressed sufficient bFGF to inhibit intimal hyperplasia. Hence, this work demonstrates that expression of therapeutic levels of protein sufficient to treat a cardiovascular condition can be achieved in accordance with the claimed subject matter by following the teaching and guidance of the '610 application.
6. In particular, this work was conducted as described at pages 14-16 of the '610 application.
7. Six pigs, three as a control group and three as an experimental group, were used. In each pig, VSMCs were isolated from a peripheral vein and grown in cell culture. The cultured VSMCs from three pigs were transformed with an adenoviral vector expressing basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF). The cultured VSMCs from the three control pigs were transformed with a control adenoviral vector that does not express a biologically active protein (AdCo). Four days after transformation, the cells were examined by immunostaining for bFGF and Western blotting, which confirmed that the AdbFGF cell lines expressed bFGF and the cell lines in the control group did not.

8. Thereafter, the transformed VSMCs were site-specifically instilled into the pigs. Each of the six pigs was anesthetized and the femoral arteries were exposed. A balloon angioplasty catheter was introduced into each femoral artery, and the balloon was inflated to create a vascular injury. Following vascular injury of each artery, each arterial segment was flushed with saline, and 4.5×10^6 transformed VSMCs were instilled therein at the site of injury. The transformed VSMCs originated from the pigs in which they were implanted.
9. The pigs were allowed to recover for three weeks. Following the recovery period, the pigs were anesthetized, the arterial segments were removed from each pig, and the pigs were euthanized. The arterial segments were fixed and analyzed.
10. Analysis of the arterial segments revealed that the three experimental pigs, with VSMCs expressing bFGF, had a significant reduction in intimal hyperplasia and arterial lesion development as compared to the three control pigs.
11. Below is a graph depicting the intima/media area ratio in arterial segments of the control group (Control) and those of the experimental group (bFGF). The intima/media ratio in the experimental group (bFGF) was 0.23 ± 0.033 and was significantly reduced ($P = 0.0002$) compared to the intima/media ratio in the control group (Control), which was 0.51 ± 0.037 .



LEGEND:

n= 6 arteries in each group

Control = 0.51 ± 0.037

bFGF = 0.23 ± 0.033

*P = 0.0002

12. These results demonstrate that transformed cells, originating from the mammal to which the cells were delivered and competent to express bFGF (a therapeutic protein), were instilled into an arterial segment and expressed bFGF at levels sufficient to inhibit to intimal hyperplasia in injured arteries in accordance with the teaching and guidance of the '610 application and the claimed subject matter.
13. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on knowledge and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

July 21, 2005
Date

Elizabeth G. Nabel
Elizabeth G. Nabel